

Isle Royale

Windigo Area Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Isle Royale National Park



Stay Wild

Trek through lush maple and birch forests. Enjoy a warm breeze rustling leaves overhead. Listen carefully for the slosh of a grazing moose. Plunge into the refreshing waters of Washington Harbor. What will you discover on Isle Royale’s west end?

Explore the Windigo area by:

- Hiking
- Paddling (\$)
- Motorboat Rental (\$)

Before wandering deeper into the park’s wilderness, consider how you can help Isle Royale Stay Wild.

• **Know Before You Go:** Check weather forecast and pack rain gear. Bring water.

• **Play It Safe:** Have a conservative trip plan. Bring a map. Trails are slippery when wet.

• **Protect Your Park:** Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Dispose of waste in trash cans.

• **Share the Space:** If an animal’s behavior changes, you are too close. Do not feed animals.

Short Hikes

Windigo Nature Trail

Length: 1.2 mile loop
Difficulty: Easy

Discover the varied landscape of Windigo. Meander through fern-filled cedar lowlands, wander amidst maple and birch trees, and watch for wildlife in the hardwood forest. Grab a trail guide at the Visitor Center to deepen your insight of this diverse area.

Grace Creek Overlook

Length: 3.6 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate

Traverse along the shoreline of Washington Harbor. Cut inland into the boreal forest and ascend through mature hardwood forests until you arrive at the ridge top. Follow the ridge and take the spur trail to reach a rocky outcrop which offers views of the island’s interior and Lake Superior’s Grace Harbor. Begin this trek near the dock at the Feldtmann Lake Trail post. Return to Windigo by retracing your steps.

Long Treks

Minong Ridge Overlook

Length: 6 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Strenuous

For adventure seekers, the Minong Ridge Trail offers a challenging and rugged experience. Beyond the Washington Creek and Huginnin Cove trail junctions, the route drops into marshes rich with signs of beaver and moose. The trail becomes rocky as you ascend through a pine forest. Ride the ups and downs of the trail until the forest opens to a striking view of flat-topped Pie Island and the rest of the Canadian shoreline.

Huginnin Cove Loop

Length: 9.4 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Strenuous

This scenic trail weaves over ridges, through wetlands, and along the Lake Superior shoreline. Cross the bridge over Washington Creek and take either fork at the trail junction. Travel through cedar swamps, find remnants of a historic mine exploration site, and watch for wildlife along the way. Admire the views of Canada from rocky lakeside cliffs and cobble beaches. Bring a pack with lunch, water, and rain gear for this all-day adventure.

Make a Splash

Washington Harbor

Length: Captain’s Choice

Spend a day exploring the serene and sheltered waters of Washington Harbor. Head to Beaver Island, explore Washington Creek (non-motorized vessels only), or simply glide along the shoreline. Wildlife viewing is abundant – watch for species like moose, otter, and merganser. Canoe, kayak, and motorboat rentals are available at the Washington Harbor Store. Daring divers can take a dip in the often chilly, but refreshing, waters of Washington Harbor.



